

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-20 L-03 SPC-03 DODE-00

H-03 DRC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL - ARGENTINA

REF: A. STATE 18559; B. BA A-171 MAR 28, 1973; C. BA 6553;
D. BA 0147; E. STATE 16744; F. STATE 75143; G. STATE 93828;
H. STATE 160296

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED THE EMBASSY COUNTRY ACTION PLAN (REF B) IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOALS OF INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TO AND THROUGH ARGENTINA AND THE NEUTRALIZATION OF THE TRAFFICKERS WOULD BEST BE MET BY PROVIDING LOGISTICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS INPUTS TO THE FEDERAL POLICE, GENDARMARIA, CUSTOMS AND COAST GUARD. THE COST ESTIMATES FOR THESE INPUTS WERE PRESENTED IN REF C.

2. IT IS THE UNANIMOUS OPINION OF THE NAC THAT THESE SUPPORT PROPOSALS ARE NOT ONLY STILL VALID BUT REMAIN THE BACKBONE OF OUR EFFORT TO OBTAIN INCREASED ACTIVITY AND COOPERATION BY APPROPRIATE GOA ELEMENTS, AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS QUICKLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. AT PRESENT THE FEDERAL
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POLICE HAVE AN ACTIVE AND VIGOROUS NARCOTICS UNIT WHICH WORKS

CLOSELY WITH DEA BUT WHICH NEEDS BOTH BETTER COMMUNICATIONS AND MORE VEHICLES. UNDER A NEW AND ENERGETIC COMMANDER, WHO WAS ONCE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE, THE GENDARMARIA HAS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING SPECIAL NARCOTICS UNITS. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND SENIOR GENDARMARIA OFFICERS ON THE DETAILS ARE NOW BEING HELD. THE CUSTOMS SERVICE IS CURRENTLY PLAYING A PASSIVE ROLE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, AND THE COAST GUARD NONE AT ALL, BUT WE BELIEVE BOTH CAN AND, FOR THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AT LEAST, SHOULD BECOME MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. NOW THAT THE POLICY MAKING CONATON HAS BEEN REVIVED, WE EXPECT THAT AN EARLY MEETING OF THE BINATIONAL COMMISSION WILL INITIAL THE UMBRELLA MEMORANDUM (REF D) WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR SIGNING THE INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE APPROVAL OF THE LA INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR COMMODITY INPUTS TO THE CUSTOMS AND FEDERAL POLICE (REF E) AS WELL AS THE AIRCRAFT/VEHICLE/RADIO PACKAGES FOR THE GENDARMARIA (REFS F AND G) WAS SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY FOR THE EMBASSY TO OFFER THESE COMMODITIES TO THE GOA. OVER THE MONTHS WE HAVE IN FACT DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL THESE INPUTS AND OUR OFFERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE (ALTHOUGH THE GENDARMARIA MAY WISH TO EXPAND ITS PACKAGE SLIGHTLY TO PERMIT SOME OFFSET COSTS RELATING TO ITS NEW ROLE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT). THE EMBASSY WAS ALSO UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE BUDGET REVIEW (REF #) WAS AN INTERNAL USC DOCUMENT FOR WASHINGTON PLANNING AND REVIEW AND FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION, AS STATED IN THE SUMMARY.

3. CONCERNING COMMITMENTS WHICH WOULD AFFECT SPENDING IN FY 74, WE BELIEVE THAT FINAL AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED BEFORE JULY 1 WITH THE GOA ON THE FEDERAL POLICE AND THE BASIC GENDARMARIA PACKAGES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOA CUSTOMS SERVICE WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY ACTIVE IN THE NARCOTICS AREA TO WARRANT USG INPUTS IN THE SHORT TERM (WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS) AND WE PROPOSE HOLDING OFF ON SIGNING ANY COMMODITY AGREEMENT UNTIL FY 75. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COAST GUARD HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY BUT MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON THEIR PLANS, CAPABILITIES AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COAST GUARD PROJECT HAS BEEN PLACED IN ABEYANCE BY THE LA INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO STUDY THE COAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUARD PROGRAM MORE FULLY AND WOULD AIM FOR REACHING AGREEMENT IN FY 75.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED THE COMMODITY PROPOSALS WITH CONATON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LAURENCE, WHO SHARES OUR VIEWS BOTH ON THE INPUTS THEMSELVES AND THE TIMING OF THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS.

5. CONCERNING THE COSTING FIGURES PRESENTED IN REF C: THE DOLLAR AMOUNT GIVEN REPRESENTED THE EMBASSY'S BEST ESTIMATES, BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COSTS IN THE LATE SUMMER OF 1973. WE BELIEVE THAT SUBSEQUENT INFLATION, NOT ONLY FOR THE COMMODITIES THEMSELVES BUT ALSO FOR TRANSPORTATION COSTS, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY RAISED THE TOTAL, PERHAPS BY AS MUCH AS 5-10 PERCENT. HOWEVER, AT THIS DISTANCE THE EMBASSY IS NOT IN A *OSITION TO RAPIDLY COST OUT THE CURRENT STATESIDE PRICES.
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